Ministry of Government Relations

Annual Report for 2014-15

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations and Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield,
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

The ministry's report reflects our government's commitment to increasing accountability, to honouring our promises, and to responsibly managing public expenditures. The programs and policies of the ministry help advance overall government priorities of growth, sustainability and quality of life, and are aligned with the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

The accomplishments of the ministry in 2014-15 are described in the pages that follow.

Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations and
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Al Hilton
Deputy Minister of Government Relations and Deputy Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

The Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Dear Sir:

On behalf of ministry staff, I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ministry staff for their good work throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of our partners in helping to make this past year a success.

This report has been prepared and carefully reviewed under my direction, and I acknowledge responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, and reliability of the information contained herein. I also accept responsibility for the financial administration and management control of the ministry.

Al Hilton
Deputy Minister of Government Relations and
Deputy Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Introduction

This annual report for the Ministry of Government Relations presents the ministry's results on activities and outcomes for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015. It reports to the public and elected officials on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the ministry.

Results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the 2014-15 Plan. The report also demonstrates progress made on government commitments in the Government Direction for 2014-15: Steady Growth, the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond, throne speeches and other commitments and activities of the ministry.

The annual report demonstrates the ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

Alignment with Government's Direction

The ministry's activities in 2014-15 align with the government's vision and four goals:

Our Government's Vision

A strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Government's Goals

- Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people.
- Meeting the challenges of growth.
- Securing a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people.
- Delivering responsive and responsible government.

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of government's four goals and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Ministry Overview

The following is the mandate statement of the Ministry of Government Relations:

> With responsibility for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs, the ministry actively engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to: effectively plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth; provide leadership and direction so that integrated public safety services are available to communities and their residents; and support responsive and responsible government.

The organizational structure aligns with the ministry's mandate. The key functional areas of the ministry are the:

- Public Safety and Corporate Services Division
- Municipal Relations and Northern Engagement Division
- Policy and Program Services Branch
- Office of the Provincial Interlocutor
- Lands and Consultation Branch
- Communications Branch

The Ministry of Government Relations' total 2014-15 full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization was 312.0, representing a variance of 70.9 FTEs over the budget of 241.1 FTEs. The over-utilization is primarily the result of hiring term staff within the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program to help process claims.

The ministry has locations across the province, with staff in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows.

Progress in 2014-15

Government Goal: Meeting the Challenges of Growth

Strategy – Build relationships and develop partnerships with and between municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, and industry that advance the Government's Growth Agenda

Results

Work with partners on a long-term, predictable, and sustainable approach to municipal infrastructure by:

- ***ensuring existing programs are concluded effectively and efficiently;***
- ***continuing negotiations regarding the New Building Canada Plan, including the renewed Gas Tax Fund and New Building Canada Fund; and,***
- ***identifying categories of priority and/or strategic infrastructure investments for the future.***

The Government of Saskatchewan and the ministry are committed to supporting the services and infrastructure that the province's municipalities provide. Such services create strong, healthy and safe communities, support provincial economic growth, and contribute to regional thinking on infrastructure delivery.

In fulfilling its commitment to municipalities, the ministry provided significant funding support in the following areas:

- Under municipal revenue sharing, a total of $257 million in unconditional funding to all municipalities in the province;
- $3.5 million in funding to support special needs transportation under the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program (support included operating funding plus capital replacement or expansion of paratransit buses);
- $2.4 million under the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative to subsidize interest on loans for infrastructure related to growth;
- $8.4 million under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component to approved projects as they neared completion;
- A final infrastructure payment of $2.8 million to the Destination Centre project in the City of Saskatoon;
- Under the Communities in Transition program, a total of $700,000 provided to rural municipalities to address environmental liabilities, such as building demolition, landfill decommissioning and water treatment plant upgrades, and to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to undertake projects that benefit many or all rural municipalities. Examples of projects undertaken by SARM in 2014-15 include community planning and administrator training.
- Under the federal Gas Tax Fund, $55.5 million in transfer payments to eligible municipalities for infrastructure and capacity building projects.

Officials from the ministry continue to work with funding recipients to manage projects, advance payments and ensure accountability under existing infrastructure programs.

In the past year, significant progress was made on negotiations under the New Building Canada Plan:

- The federal-provincial agreement for the renewed Gas Tax Fund was officially signed on June 25, 2014.
- Individual ten-year municipal gas tax fund agreements were sent to all municipalities in July and at fiscal year-end, 735 agreements were signed and in place, representing 95 per cent of municipalities. The Gas Tax Fund is now permanent and will provide predictable, long-term, stable funding for municipalities.
- The Government of Canada is providing Saskatchewan with $436.7 million under the New Building Canada Fund – Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component. The ministry is administering $196.5 million under the National/Regional Projects stream and $43.7 million under the Small Communities Fund allocation.

In order to help municipalities take advantage of the New Building Canada Fund, the province will reintroduce and expand the popular Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative (SIGI) program. The program will also be opened to First Nations in a position to participate. (October 22, 2014 Throne Speech)

- The goal of the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 2 program is similar to that of the initial program, namely to help municipalities address pressures created by growth by providing interest rate subsidies on loans for infrastructure projects.
- Ministry staff are developing the new program based on its expanded parameters. The new program will now not only include lot development projects but also many of the project categories used in the New Building Canada Fund and the Gas Tax Program, such as wastewater projects and drinking water projects. As per the direction from the Throne Speech, the new program will also be open to First Nations in a position to participate.

A new commuter bridge in the north industrial area of Saskatoon is needed in that rapidly growing city and the Government is committed to helping fund that infrastructure priority. (2014-15 Budget Speech)

- The provincial government is committed to assisting the City of Saskatoon with construction of a major infrastructure project, the North Commuter Parkway Bridge. The Premier participated in a tripartite funding announcement on June 9, 2014.

Support the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth by:

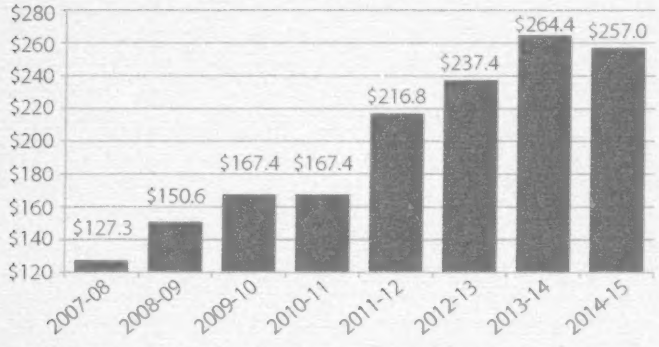
- ***utilizing the multi-ministry Rapid Growth Communities working group to provide an improved government response to assist areas experiencing rapid growth;***
- ***developing criteria to determine future areas to assist;***
- ***developing guidelines on fair and equitable annexation compensation; and,***
- ***developing a "growth readiness" guide and tool for communities to use when identifying and prioritizing actions on growth pressures.***

- The Rapid Growth Communities team has representation from 13 provincial government ministries and agencies. The team was established in 2013-14 to help leaders in regions and municipalities that are experiencing rapid growth. The team has engaged 42 municipalities in two rapid growth regions, Jansen-Humboldt and Estevan-Weyburn. Through information-sharing sessions and technical meetings, team members have been able to answer many technical questions and provide assistance on regional planning initiatives.
- Three municipal Acts, *The Municipalities Act*, *The Cities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*, and *The Municipal Board Act* require municipalities to attempt mediation to resolve disputes and expedite processes before disputed annexations go to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board for adjudication/decision.
- The ministry continued to work towards improved consistency and fairness in municipal land annexation decisions by focusing on a new approach to settling disputes over compensation for some boundary alterations.
- Ministry staff completed initial consultations on a draft annexation compensation guideline and formula in mid-2014. With input from municipal associations and stakeholders, staff then developed a joint consultation process in early 2015 to seek consensus on principles for annexation compensation rather than a detailed guideline and formula. This additional consultation phase is expected to be completed by fall 2015.
- In preparing a "growth readiness checklist" for municipalities, ministry staff drafted a concept paper and checklist outlining the concept of municipal growth readiness in Saskatchewan and critical factors indicating a municipality's readiness for growth.
- Following review and positive feedback from municipal associations, the ministry was encouraged to test the checklist with volunteer municipalities. That testing is expected to be complete by June 2015.
- Ministry staff began internal development of a web-ready checklist, with an expected release date of the fall of 2015 for the final tool.

Maintain the revenue sharing commitment, that grows with the province's economy, providing the equivalent of one full point of the Provincial Sales Tax (from 2012-13 Public Accounts) to the municipal sector.

- The government provided $257.0 million in municipal revenue sharing to municipalities in 2014-15. This funding is equivalent to one point of Provincial Sales Tax (from 2012-13 Public Accounts). Municipalities can use this unconditional funding for local operational needs, such as staff certification to operate a water treatment plant, or the operating costs associated with providing transit services. The monies can also be used for capital requirements, such as road and bridge construction or matching federal and provincial funding on an approved infrastructure project.
- Near the end of the fiscal year, as part of the March budget address, the government announced that it would be providing record revenue sharing of $263.5 million in municipal revenue sharing in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Municipal Revenue Sharing (millions)



Source: Government Relations – Municipal Infrastructure and Finance

Develop tools/training materials and participate in special projects designed to increase the municipal sector's ability to undertake local and regional planning, with a particular focus on areas around the province's larger centres.

- Ministry staff provide support and advice to municipalities on financial management matters in order to build knowledge and capacity, improve financial sustainability, and enhance municipal compliance and accountability.
- The Planning for Growth initiative seeks to enhance regional planning capacity in support of growth and development across the province. Seven Planning for Growth projects, funded from the federal Gas Tax Fund, were completed in 2014-15.
- The ministry continued to deliver accounting training to staff in northern municipalities in partnership with New North and the Northern Local Government Administrators program. Staff also delivered workshops on local government elections, tax enforcement, and privacy and freedom of information concerns.
- To date, 10 northern municipalities have adopted official community plans and zoning bylaws, and plans are near completion for two other communities. Of these, four are newly adopted bylaws prepared under the Planning for Growth North program.

Ensure legislation, regulations, and policies are in alignment with the ministry's commitment to be an effective partner in supporting growth, to enhance the quality of life for Saskatchewan people, and to act in the interests of residents, communities, and municipalities.

- *The Subdivision Regulations* were repealed and replaced with *The Subdivision Regulations, 2014*. Affecting landowners, municipalities and developers alike, the new regulations are modern and efficient and incorporate provincial priorities and interests into the land development process.
- *The Government Relations Administration Act* was introduced, repealing four outdated Acts (*The Urban Affairs Act, The Rural Affairs Act, The Rural Development Act*, and *The Northern Affairs Act*) in favour of a new Act that better reflects the ministry's public safety, First Nations and Métis, northern and municipal affairs mandates. The new Act also removes duplication and inconsistency with recently rewritten executive government legislation.

- The ministry brought in a number of policy changes in 2014-15 to support municipal and community growth. They included:
  - Putting stronger limits on mill rate factor variation within a municipality, primarily benefitting commercial/industrial property;
  - Enabling smaller urban and rural municipalities to seek unique debt limits from the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, providing more flexibility to finance growth;
  - Extending the Northern Capital Grants Program to September 30, 2018; and
  - Making efficiency improvements to the subdivision application and approval process.
- Inter-municipal business licensing was fully enabled under the three municipal Acts, *The Municipalities Act*, *The Cities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*, thus allowing businesses or types of businesses to operate across participating jurisdictions under single licenses.
- Municipal district and additional service areas were enabled in legislation, thus adding options for municipalities to better deal with and accommodate growth, development and servicing pressures.
- During the fiscal year, the ministry completed four business-related regulatory reviews related to gas, electrical and building, official licensing and subdivisions. These meet the government's 10-year review requirements. The ministry has reviewed 50 per cent of its business related regulations over the last two fiscal years with the remainder scheduled for review and amendment before 2020.
- During the fiscal year, the minister asked a retired Queen's Bench judge to undertake an inspection into the actions of a rural municipality with respect to a proposed community development within its boundaries. The inspection was elevated to an inquiry, the findings of which resulted in the minister ordering the removal of the rural municipality's reeve.

Support dialogue and collaboration among communities, industry, and government in northern resource development decisions, including the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee's focus on the uranium industry.

- Staff managed general meetings and uranium mine site visits for the Northern Saskatchewan Environment Quality Committee (NSEQC). They also began a planned review of the performance of the NSEQC program, starting with initial interviews with key northern and industry stakeholders.

Negotiate and administer mine surface lease agreements to enable and encourage maximum training, employment, and business opportunities for Northerners.

- Working with the Ministry of Environment, the ministry surveyed other ministries to research and recommend appropriate lease models for advanced exploration projects.
- A new lease, reflecting current government legislation and priorities, is being developed for the former Parks Lake area (surrounded by the current Rabbit Lake mining site). The lease is expected to be signed in the summer of 2015.

Raise awareness of resource industry impacts on northern communities by reporting on annual mining benefits and industry-community agreements in Canada's North.

- The ministry posted to the government's website and distributed copies of its third annual summary of the performance of northern mining companies in providing local benefits for northern residents under company mine surface lease agreements. The summary documented increases by mining companies in the number of their northern workers, in the value of company northern purchases, and in the array of tools used by companies to improve community communications over the years.

Undertake public safety reform to develop and maintain a modern, effective regulatory system that will:

- ***ensure timely adoption of codes and standards in all public safety technologies through effective regulations;***
- ***align and simplify legislation and regulations pertaining to public safety; and***
- ***enable collaboration between government, industry, and municipalities in the delivery, application, and compliance with numerous public safety technologies.***

- A new *Fire Safety Act* was introduced to replace *The Fire Prevention Act, 1992*. The ministry also updated legislation to reflect modern fire services and improve local and provincial response, protection and accountability in fire and emergency situations.
- The ministry undertook a number of regulatory and policy improvements in 2014-15 to better support public safety. They included:
  - Enabling media distribution services to be designated emergency service providers to implement the province's new emergency public alerting program SaskAlert;
  - Removing unnecessary variation in gas and electrical licensing and aligning timeframes with code cycles to encourage currency with technology and industry standards; and
  - Removing barriers to recognizing equivalent building official accreditation from other provinces and training from non-educational (e.g. industry) institutions.
- The ministry developed a Saskatchewan Disaster Mitigation Strategy to help identify, address and prioritize Saskatchewan disaster mitigation needs. This work included identifying a list of current hazards and designing a risk assessment process to be completed in collaboration with other government partners. The strategy covered current and required mitigation activities as well as respective roles and responsibilities for both government and stakeholders (e.g. municipalities) related to mitigation.
- *The Building and Accessibility Standards Administration Regulations* were amended to align with labour mobility provisions of the Agreement on Internal Trade and the New West Partnership.
- *The Gas Licensing Regulations* and *The Electrical Licensing Regulations* were amended to address fee schedules and renewal cycles for purpose of simplification and alignment with code cycles.
- The ministry worked with the Ministry of Economy on its initiative with the Standards Council of Canada to examine the relevance of standards referenced in provincial regulations.
- The ministry continued to work collaboratively with associations representing gas-fitters and electricians in Saskatchewan and with SaskPower in the delivery of services to clients.
- The ministry continued to collaborate with the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK) in its relationship with the Saskatchewan Integrity Association and the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Board.

Work with First Nations, Métis, and other stakeholders to advance shared policy objectives and practical arrangements that improve outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

- The Office of the Provincial Interlocutor provides small sponsorships to First Nations and Métis communities or non-profit organizations to assist with public events that benefit Aboriginal people. The events must fall into categories that support the government's growth objectives, including education, employment and recognition of veterans and Elders.
- The ministry approved 22 sponsorships totaling $64,801 in 2014-15, covering such diverse activities as a youth entrepreneurship camp, a youth leadership symposium, a smudge walk, National Aboriginal Day celebrations, various pow-wows, disaster mitigation training, the Back to Batoche Festival, and the Treaty Four Gathering in Fort Qu'Appelle.
- The ministry continued to work with First Nations in power generation partnership opportunities, such as those arising through the First Nations Power Authority's Commercial Solar Demonstration Project. Showcasing new solar technology specifically designed for Canada's

climate, the project is designed to offset power consumption for the Home Inn & Suites in Swift Current.

- Saskatchewan supports economic development on reserve, such as the proposed Muskowekwan First Nation potash project which would become the first on-reserve potash mine in Canada. Government officials continued to work with the First Nation and the federal government towards an agreement under the federal *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act* to provide regulatory certainty to the project.
- The provincial government is working in partnership with Whitecap Dakota First Nation to develop "practical, non-jurisdictional arrangements." These are administrative agreements in a variety of areas that support the First Nation's autonomy and development interests as well as the goals in the province's Plan for Growth, yet do not involve the transfer of provincial jurisdiction.
- The Premier and the Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs continued to meet with the Chief and Vice Chiefs of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) to discuss issues of mutual concern and advance the Government-FSIN Bilateral Protocol to improve outcomes of First Nations people.

... more support for initiatives like those recommended by the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment outcomes. (2014-15 Government Direction)

- The Office of the Provincial Interlocutor was very engaged during the reporting period in follow-up work with other ministries and agencies with respect to the report of the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes (JTF). Key components of the government's long-term response and plan are the province-wide Student First engagements and development of an education sector strategic plan. First Nations and Métis education organizations, along with all 28 school divisions, were engaged in the development of the latter plan to establish outcomes, actions and targets to achieve the goals of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth and the Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda.

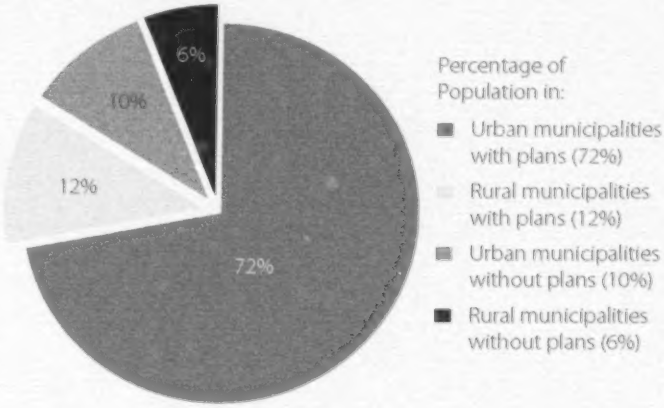
Performance Measures

The following measures demonstrate progress in 2014-15 towards achieving the ministry's strategy to "build relationships and develop partnerships with and between municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, and industry that advance the Government's Growth Agenda."

Percentage of the Population Living in Municipalities With Official Community Plans

Official Community Plans (OCPs) set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests. OCPs assist with planning and managing growth.

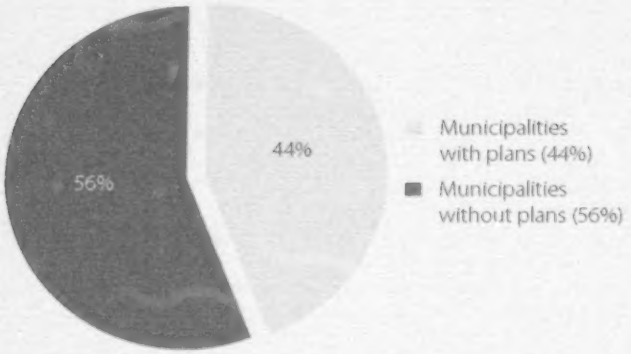
The majority of Saskatchewan's population, 82 per cent, lives in communities that have adopted OCPs. This is an increase from 75 per cent in 2009-10. The percentage of municipalities with OCPs has also risen to 41 per cent, up from 36 per cent in 2009-10.



Source: Government Relations – Community Planning

Government of Saskatchewan

Percentage of municipalities with Official Community Plans

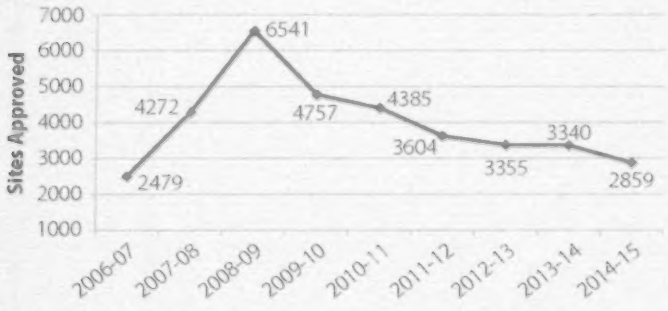


Source: Government Relations – Community Planning

Number of sites approved through subdivision approval process

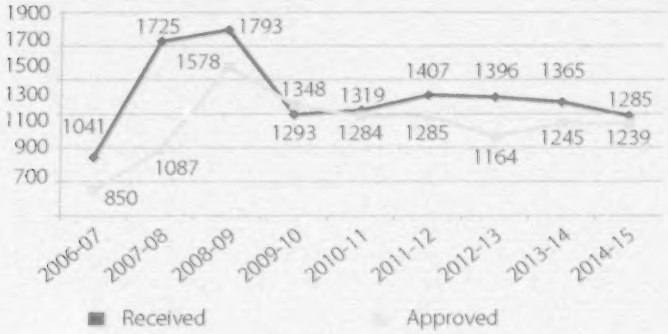
The subdivision of land is a key step for investment in economic growth as it precedes actual development. The elevated trend for lot development in the past seven years represents significant investment in land and property within the province.

Through the Integrated Subdivision Approval Program, the ministry reviewed the municipal/developer servicing agreements to ensure adequate infrastructure arrangements were in place to service the 1,239 subdivision applications the ministry approved for 2,859 new commercial, industrial, and residential lots.



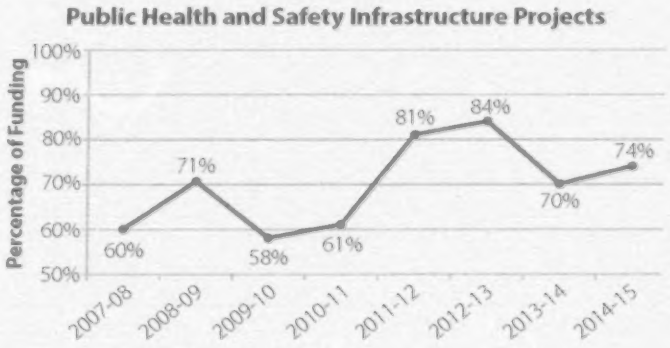
Source: Government Relations – Community Planning

Number of subdivision applications received and approved



Source: Government Relations – Community Planning

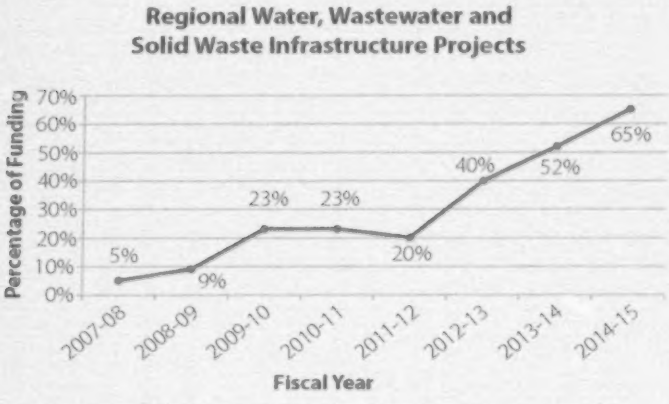
Proportion of infrastructure investment provided for public health and safety projects (water, wastewater, and solid waste projects) through federal-provincial cost-shared programs (as a percentage of total funding)



Source: Government Relations – Municipal Infrastructure and Finance

To support growth and development, the ministry placed a high priority on public safety projects for federal-provincial funding under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component. These projects peaked in 2012-13. From 2012-13 to 2013-14, many sport/culture/recreation/local roadway projects were completed, reflected in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 change in funding proportions.

Percentage of funding provided to communities under 100,000 for regional water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure through major federal-provincial cost-shared infrastructure programs (as a percentage of total funding)



Source: Government Relations – Municipal Infrastructure and Finance

Funding has been committed to regional infrastructure to support growth. Clean water is essential for a high quality of life in our province. To achieve this, the ministry continued to provide a high proportion of funding to several important regional projects under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component in 2014-15.

Number of grants approved through the Consultation Participation Fund for First Nations and Métis communities

The First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund provides financial assistance to First Nations and Métis communities to participate in consultations with government on project specific activities where a duty to consult is triggered.

Funding assistance for First Nations and Métis communities supports informed decision making and assists government in fulfilling its legal obligation to consult with First Nations and Métis communities in advance of decisions or actions that have the potential to adversely affect Treaty or Aboriginal rights. Sixteen grants were approved in 2014-15.

Government Goal: Securing a Better Quality of Life for Saskatchewan People

Strategy – Be an enabling partner in building safe, healthy and vibrant communities

Results

Maintain a robust Provincial Emergency Plan that identifies the roles and responsibilities of all ministries, Crowns, and agencies in provincial emergency operations under the Incident Command System.

- The Provincial Emergency Management Plan is an all-hazards plan that is reviewed annually and updated through a "lessons learned" process with a goal of continual improvement. The operational plan itself consists of three phases: internal and external preparedness, response and recovery.
- The plan clearly identifies roles and responsibilities of internal operations as well as those of other government organizations, namely the Water Security Agency; the Ministries of Highways, Health, Social Services, Environment and Agriculture; and SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SaskTel.
- The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, when activated, follows National Incident Command System guidelines. In 2014, the centre opened for 24/7 operation on June 28 and remained operational until July 17, providing overall coordination of response activities to the flooding events in south east and central Saskatchewan.
- The ministry supported communities with staff and equipment. Other ministries, Crowns and agencies were part of the provincial response coordinated out of the centre.

Manage provincial resources to support municipalities facing emergency situations through the delivery of preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery initiatives that complement local and regional capabilities.

- *The Emergency Planning Act, 1989* requires a municipality to appoint a municipal planning committee, establish an emergency measures (management) organization (EMO), appoint an emergency coordinator and prepare an emergency plan.
- The ministry offers its Emergency Operations Centre as a resource to communities in their emergency planning and holds community meetings as required. It delivers courses throughout the province on such topics as basic emergency management, incident command and emergency plan development.
- The local authority in an affected area is the first level of government responsible for dealing with an emergency. If its ability to cope with an emergency such as flooding goes beyond local capacity, ministry emergency service officers and rapid responders will provide support through equipment, training and back-up response.
- During the reporting period, 95 declarations of local emergency were made as a result of the 2014 flooding event.
- Ministry-coordinated recovery efforts featured a number of on-location recovery centres where government and private agency staff helped jurisdictions in accessing programs, gave citizens advice on recovery and long-term options, and connected with communities to discuss their emergency plans.
- In spring 2015, the government pre-positioned specific flood and wildfire response equipment for distribution and deployment based on the ongoing analysis of threat situations.

Develop a program to enhance internal capacity to assist municipalities, when required, during emergencies.

- Following a request from Cabinet, the ministry developed a plan to establish a civil service reserve team to supplement the government's established emergency response efforts. Fifty-seven executive government and Crown corporation employees were selected and trained in March 2015, with a number deployed to handle emergencies shortly afterwards. Recruitment of additional team members will take place in the fall of 2015.
- The High School Emergency Services Response Training program began in January 2014 in two Prince Albert high schools. The three-level credit program and certification is designed to develop professional skills for people interested in working in the public safety sectors and help address the shortage of workers in those sectors, whether through future direct employment or volunteer service. Thirty-seven students were enrolled in the first level and all successfully completed the requirements.

Support greater public safety in Saskatchewan communities by reviewing municipal emergency plans against established criteria and advising on potential improvements.

- Ministry emergency service officers continued to work with communities and local authorities to develop preparedness plans based on *The Emergency Planning Act*. They are available as a resource to guide and support communities through the process and provided assistance in that regard to high risk communities.

Develop emerging public safety infrastructure to support community emergency services and ensure interoperability among all public safety agencies.

- The Provincial Public Safety Telecommunication Network now has more than 8,000 users from more than 400 agencies in Saskatchewan and is emerging as a Canadian leader in deploying public safety communications solutions.
- In 2014-15 there were 260 active repeater sites operating with plans for an additional seven new sites in 2015.
- Network staff honed their skills during CAUSE III, a collaborative experiment to test cross-border emergency response and interoperability focusing on achieving radio/data communication involving responders in Saskatchewan, Alberta and the state of Montana. Led by the ministry, the exercise was successful in demonstrating interoperable radio communications systems between the areas and

strengthened relationships between public safety organizations and agencies across borders and identified any policy/agreement/statutory gaps that could impede cross-border interoperability.

Maintain and improve provincial emergency communications systems, such as the Sask911 system and the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network, including technology enhancements to improve portable radio coverage and network resiliency.

- Sask911 program developments in 2014-15 included the provision in the Emergency Call Centre of translation services, including French, to limited-English or language preference callers requiring assistance. This service is offered through LanguageLine® Over-the-PhoneSM, where it is possible to connect to trained professional interpreters fluent in a total of more than 200 languages within seconds.
- The other significant development was the Next Generation 911 project, which will see the entire 9-1-1 system upgraded to a Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) solution. This project brings a variety of new features to the system, such as improved service level tracking, improved accuracy and security of information, and the ability to receive texts, images and video from smart phones.
- In February the ministry conducted tests of the new emergency public alerting system, SaskAlert, in the western third of the province. This testing phase was successful, setting the stage for SaskAlert's launch province-wide in April 2015.

Provide an effective disaster financial assistance program that meets the critical needs of those impacted by natural disasters and maximizes cost recovery under the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

- The Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) has been very successful in closing prior-year claim files. For the 2010 through 2013 disaster event years, the number of PDAP claim files processed and closed is approximately 98 per cent.
- For the 2014 disaster events PDAP received 4,818 claims. Of these, 60 per cent were already closed by March 31, 2015. On these claims, 3,170 payments totaling $36.8 million have been processed.
- During 2014-15, PDAP received advance cost recovery payments from Public Safety Canada in the amount of $165 million, including $100 million for the most recent 2014 events.

Continue implementation of lessons learned from the 2013 Lean initiative to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program.

- Lean initiatives have been implemented. The most significant improvements included the removal of the ten-year gravel averaging form for municipal claimants and the "fast track" payment process for private claimants. These two changes significantly reduced the amount of time and paperwork required for municipal and private claimants. Private claimants were able to receive final payments faster and PDAP was able to close files sooner. The average number of payments per private claim was reduced from two payments per claim in 2010-11 to one payment per claim in 2014-15.

Initiate work on a provincial disaster mitigation strategy.

- A government-wide committee led by the ministry met several times during the fiscal year. The flood working group consists of officials from the ministry, the Water Security Agency, and the Ministries of Highways and Infrastructure and Agriculture.
- In 2015, the working group will be identifying and ranking all aspects of provincial flood mitigation needs, from risk assessment to mapping, planning and structural projects. Projects will be sorted into pools and directed to whichever federal mitigation program offers the best value and chance of approval.

Work with Public Safety Canada on development and implementation of its recently announced Natural Disaster Mitigation Strategy.

- The ministry conducted research and consultations to prepare Saskatchewan to participate in the new National Disaster Mitigation Program. Those efforts included advice to Public Safety Canada during its program development and finalization as well as the

organization of a working group of provincial officials from the Water Security Agency and the Ministries of Government Relations, Agriculture and Highways and Infrastructure to develop priorities to advance under the program.

Administer the final year of the Seniors Home Security Program.

- The Seniors Home Security Program provided free home security assessments and home safety devices to low-income seniors and seniors who have been victims of break-ins or home invasions throughout the province. The four-year program concluded in 2014-15 with 794 applications processed and services delivered in every constituency in Saskatchewan.

Work with the municipal sector and its associations to:

- ***develop a range of options and alternative approaches for improved infrastructure policies and best practices that are locally driven and based on meaningful priorities set by the local council; and,***
- ***develop and deliver, as appropriate, training opportunities and resources related to community planning, leadership, and other topics where a mutual priority is identified.***
  - Subcommittees on asset management and communications were established under the Gas Tax Fund oversight committee. Those subcommittees, consisting of representatives from the provincial and federal governments and municipal associations, will work towards compliance with the relevant sections of the renewed Gas Tax Fund agreements.
  - The ministry delivered 14 well-received workshops and presentations to over 1,400 administrative and elected municipal officials on administration and legislative matters, such as roles and responsibilities, tax enforcement, and assessment and taxation.
  - In 2014-15, the ministry and the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) jointly developed a new assessment and tax policy training workshop for administrators and elected officials.
  - During 2014-15, the ministry developed three new resource manuals for municipal administrators and updated its citizen guide on shaping council decisions to reflect changes made to *The Municipalities Act* allowing the public to petition for a management or financial audit.
  - The ministry delivered a workshop on regional planning issues for planning districts, as well as workshops on development appeals board training, and planning and development training as it applied to servicing agreements, asset management and municipal reserve.

Work with ministries, agencies, and Crowns to engage First Nations and Métis, municipalities, and other stakeholders to provide policy advice and support on integrated approaches across Government priorities.

- The ministry continued its responsibility to conduct the Crown's duty to consult processes where First Nations or Métis treaty rights may be affected by proposed planning bylaws or subdivision applications. Duty to consult ensured that all planning decisions made by the ministry met provincial interests and government priorities, such as:
  - Prohibition of development on flood-prone or other hazard lands;
  - Coordination between municipalities in rural-urban fringe areas;
  - Consideration of land for future school sites at time of subdivision;
  - Source water protection; and
  - Non-development of land deemed necessary for future highways.
- The ministry analyzed training and employment statistics in support of a program review of the fourth five-year Multi-Party Training Plan for the mineral sector in northern Saskatchewan.
- Saskatchewan is leading a cross-Canada working group that is contracting research on the effectiveness of benefit agreements between major natural resource development projects and nearby communities. The final report will be presented to the Northern Development Ministers Forum, and to other interested federal/provincial/territorial tables.
- The ministry is one of 14 government, community and agency partners in the Embracing Life Initiative,

which promotes and coordinates community-based and regional suicide prevention strategies and projects across the North. Acting in a support secretariat role, the ministry monitored the delivery of 17 community based projects, and helped plan and deliver a resource-mapping meeting with northern agencies to better align northern services related to suicide prevention.

- The Office of the Provincial Interlocutor supports practical projects that improve outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. Grants under its First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Projects promote arrangements and partnerships that align with government priorities and support First Nations and/or Métis people and communities.
- The ministry invested $191,328 in 2014-15 (average grant of approximately $21,000) in nine such projects, including such initiatives as a community safety audit in North Battleford; a "healing the heart" outreach training project to reduce violence and suicide in seven northern First Nations; a Saskatoon cyber outreach project to reach sexually exploited women, children and youth in the sex trade; an "Engaging Young Leaders" project involving 40 First Nations, Métis and northern youth; and an arts education project with the File Hills Tribal Council to reinforce First Nations heritage and cultures among students from six on-reserve schools.

Performance Measures

The following measures demonstrate progress in 2014-15 towards achieving the ministry's strategy to "be an enabling partner in building safe, healthy and vibrant communities."

Percentage of population covered by *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS) building bylaws

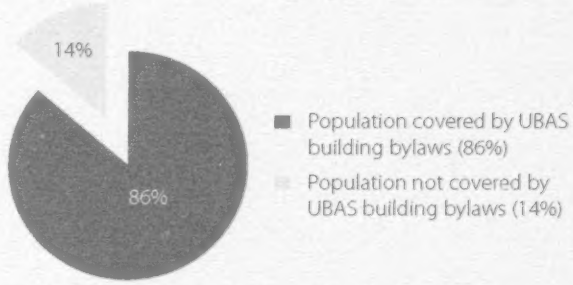
These measures demonstrate municipal leadership in public safety and enforcement of building standards that promote construction of safe buildings.

Municipalities with building bylaws in place represent 86.4 per cent of the province's population (based on the 2011 Census), an increase of over five per cent from 2009-10.

Fifty-seven per cent of municipalities had UBAS approved building bylaws in place, a five per cent increase from 2009-10.

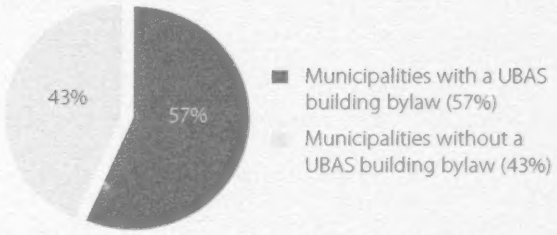
Ongoing efforts by the ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation of UBAS building bylaws by municipalities.

Percentage of population covered by UBAS



Source: Government Relations – Building Standards and Licensing

Percentage of municipalities with a building bylaw pursuant to UBAS



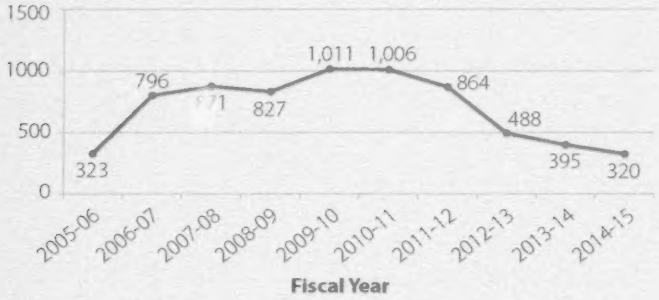
Source: Government Relations – Building Standards and Licensing

Number of individuals participating in the Emergency Management Training Program

There is a direct relationship between the number of participants in emergency management training and the level of preparedness at the community level. Local authorities that invest in training and developing their emergency management programs are better prepared to respond to disasters within their communities, reduce damage to properties and critical infrastructure, and enhance protection of the environment.

The Emergency Management Training Program provides training in the core essentials of an emergency management framework through courses on basic emergency management, set-up of an emergency operations centre, evacuation contingency planning, and emergency public information. In 2014-15, 19 emergency management training sessions were provided in 18 locations across the province.

Number of Participants



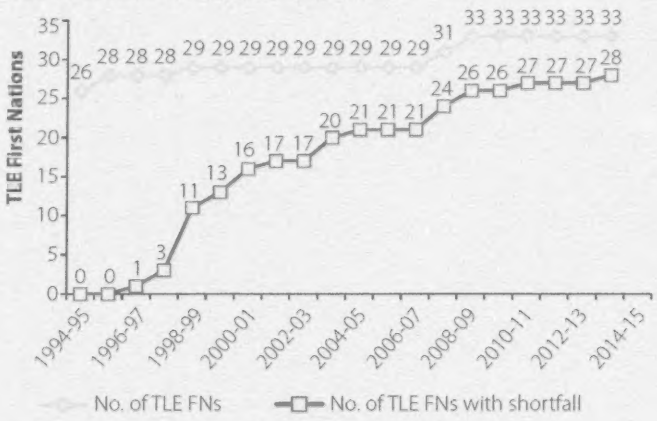
Source: Government Relations – Emergency Management and Fire Safety

Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations that have achieved their shortfall acres

Progress on this measure is a key indicator of the ministry's success in meeting the provincial obligations related to Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and contributing to the acquisition of shortfall acres by all TLE First Nations. The shortfall acres are the minimum amount of acres each TLE First Nation must acquire and transfer to reserve status before the outstanding Treaty land obligation is met.

As of March 31, 2015, 33 First Nations have signed TLE Settlement Agreements with Canada and Saskatchewan. Of those, 28 have acquired their shortfall acres.

TLE First Nations with Shortfall Acres



Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Government Goal: Delivering Responsive and Responsible Government

Strategy – Support responsive and responsible government

Results

Ensure an effective and efficient property assessment and taxation system exists in the province to fund education and municipal services.

- Staff began a review of industry financial contributions to rural municipalities (RMs), rural road infrastructure and RM accountability. This project is aimed at determining a method to fund rural road infrastructure fairly for both industry and RMs to encourage economic growth in the province.
- Staff initiated an examination of potash revenue sharing and removal of the application of mill rate factors to ensure levies collected are in accordance with legislation. They also began a review of the potash tax sharing legislation and regulations in anticipation of new mines becoming operational in future.
- The government decided to maintain the same education property tax mill rates as the previous year, thus ensuring its promises in terms of education property tax relief are met. Staff reviewed the method of collection and the balance of funding between the general revenue fund and education property taxes for possible future changes.
- After conducting consultations, the government supported SAMA's capital infrastructure program for technology improvements to increase reinspections, thereby generating more revenues for both municipalities and the education system.
- SAMA's Saskatchewan Assessment Manual, prepared for the 2017 revaluation, received ministerial approval. The manual will help assessment service providers calculate preliminary values for determining percentages of value and property classes for the next revaluation.

Support government's and municipalities' business needs by providing information to improve analytical and decision-making capabilities.

- The ministry continued to develop new information and analytical tools in support of government and municipal business needs and decision-making capabilities. Tools and applications available on the ministry's section of the government's website included the municipal information data portal, SaskMuniMaps, growth readiness tools, comparative financial information mapping application, and the municipal sustainability self-assessment tool.
- The ministry finalized and implemented the Property Assessment and Tax Mapping and Analysis Program (PATMAP). The program helps the government to better assess potential tax shifts for each revaluation and ensure a responsible and responsive property assessment and municipal tax system.

Review and improve municipal and public safety legislation and regulations to meet the evolving needs of municipal, public safety and other stakeholders, the province and the public to ensure it achieves responsive and responsible government.

- The new *Fire Safety Act* responds to requests from municipal leaders and fire service professionals for clear rules on entry to deal with fire risks and greater liability protection while ensuring the province has authority to respond and is better informed of local fire service capability.
- The new *Government Relations Administration Act* provides clear authority to the minister to address municipal non-compliance with education property tax collection and remittance to school divisions.
- The updated *Municipalities Regulations* enable smaller urban and rural municipalities to seek unique debt limits. These improvements respond to sector requests for borrowing flexibility to respond to growth opportunities and new infrastructure programs, while retaining the legislated limit for the many municipalities that prefer to operate within the current limits.

Advance development of amendments to The Local Government Election Act.

- A new, rewritten *Local Government Election Act* was introduced in the fall of 2014 for passage in the spring of 2015 and proclamation well in advance of the 2016 general municipal elections. The new Act responds to issues identified by the sector and ministry arising from the 2012 general municipal elections and recent referenda. The new Act will:
  - Make many procedures/provisions common for urban, rural and northern municipalities, such as poll hours, nomination procedures and forms, while retaining longstanding urban-rural differences such as staggered elections and eligibility;
  - Clarify plebiscite and referenda provisions regarding actions of employees and impartiality of election officials; and,
  - Clarify rules of residency for students and military personnel and remove "eligibility" to vote in advance, consistent with recent changes to provincial election legislation.

Facilitate consistent implementation of the First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework to ensure duty to consult objectives and obligations are met and First Nation and Métis relationships are strengthened.

- The ministry's Aboriginal Consultation Unit works with officials from across government on implementation of the First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework.
- The unit worked with government and academic partners to deliver ten duty to consult workshops to build awareness and facilitate implementation of a consistent consultation process. The unit also delivered three outreach presentations on duty to consult to industry proponents.

Manage and increase awareness of the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund.

- This fund offers financial assistance as required to First Nation and Métis communities in their consultation efforts with government. There was an increase in the number of grants provided in 2014-15. The ministry communicated directly with First Nation and Métis community leaders to remind them of the opportunity for funding. Information on the fund and fast track funding is available on the website.

Coordinate and oversee the implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Specific Claims Agreements to ensure provincial obligations are met and lead provincial involvement in negotiations of TLE claims with Canada and First Nations.

- The ministry continued to work to fulfill the government's obligations with respect to TLE and Specific Claims Agreements. This work included coordination and implementation of the agreements across government, as well as policy leadership on First Nation land claim matters. Implementation issues are discussed as they arise with First Nations and the federal government.
- The ministry continued to lead provincial involvement in negotiations, modelled on the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement between Canada, Saskatchewan, and the Ahtahkakoop, Mistawasis, and Sakimay First Nations.

Strategy – Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of ministry programs and services

Results

Conduct program reviews to evaluate alignment with the ministry's strategic framework and assess effectiveness and efficiency of all programs.

- Ten ministry program reviews were completed in 2014-15 that measured each program's alignment to ministry priorities and its effectiveness in achieving its objectives.
- Each review produced recommendations for program improvement. Those recommendations are being acted upon and have also been integrated into the ministry's strategic planning process.

Continue to grow the ministry's Lean culture and use Lean tools to streamline processes.

- Over the course of the fiscal year the ministry focused on building its internal Lean capacity. Many staff members received government Lean training and are now applying Lean methodology to everyday tasks. The ministry completed a strategic value stream selection event in March 2015 that helped prioritize the ministry's Lean initiatives and inform its strategic planning process.

Complete the ministry's review of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board and make recommendations as appropriate.

- The ministry completed the board review during the reporting period. The majority of recommendations requiring legislative changes have been implemented. Internal process and policy improvement recommendations are reflected in the board's annual report and strategic plan.

2014-15 Financial Overview

Financial Results

Actual appropriated expenditures were $571.4 million, representing an increase of approximately $105.2 million over the Government Relations appropriation budget of $466.2 million. This increase is primarily attributable to:

- higher than anticipated claim and program administration costs for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program ($107.7 million);
- higher than anticipated casino profits resulting in increased gaming agreement payments ($3.4 million); and
- Emergency Management and Fire Safety pressures, primarily spring flooding preparation and response costs ($2.3 million);

partially offset by,

- lower than anticipated infrastructure grant payments ($4.1 million); and
- net savings across the ministry, primarily due to expenditure restraint, vacancy management, and lower than anticipated operating funding requirements ($4.1 million).

Supplementary funding of $118.8 million was provided to Government Relations to address pressures within the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program and increased gaming agreement payments. Overall, as a result of lower than expected Provincial Disaster Assistance Program pressures and internal under expenditures, $13.7 million, or 2.3 per cent of available funding, was not utilized.

The 2014-15 revenue budget was $70.3 million. Actual revenue was $178.6 million, representing an increase of approximately $108.3 million over budget. This increase is primarily attributable to:

- net increase in Disaster Financial Assistance revenue ($99.5 million);
- higher than anticipated refunds to the General Revenue Fund, primarily for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program where actual claim settlements were lower than the estimated accounts payable that had been set up ($11.1 million); and
- miscellaneous revenue ($0.6 million);

partially offset by,

- reduced Building Canada Fund – Communities Component revenue due to infrastructure project delays ($2.9 million).

The 2014-15 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) budget was 241.1. Actual FTE utilization was 312.0, representing an over-utilization of 70.9 FTEs. The over-utilization is primarily the result of hiring term staff within the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program to help process claims.

Summary of Expenditures

The following table summarizes budgeted versus actual expenses by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than five per cent and $100,000.

In thousands of dollars Subvote/Subprogram	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	Variance Over/(Under)	Notes
Central Management and Services (GR01)	**9,471**	**10,287**	**9,113**	**(1,174)**	
Minister's Salary	47	48	48	–	
Executive Management	990	1,047	812	(235)	1
Central Services	5,679	6,333	5,480	(853)	2
Accommodations Services	2,755	2,859	2,773	(86)	
First Nations and Métis Engagement (GR12)	**82,615**	**80,221**	**82,545**	**2,324**	
First Nations and Métis Relations	2,265	2,555	2,170	(385)	3
Treaty Land Entitlement	2,068	435	197	(238)	4
First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund	25	600	101	(499)	5
Métis Development Fund	2,003	3,316	3,099	(217)	6
First Nations Gaming Agreements	76,254	73,315	76,978	3,663	7
Municipal and Northern Engagement (GR07)	**375,685**	**363,815**	**358,828**	**(4,987)**	
Urban Revenue Sharing	169,852	165,212	165,060	(152)	
Rural Revenue Sharing	74,847	72,607	72,748	141	
Northern Revenue Sharing	19,716	19,160	19,160	–	
Provincial/Territorial Base Fund	769	451	–	(451)	8
Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component	4,851	2,758	2,758	–	
Building Canada Fund – Communities Component	8,883	11,498	8,376	(3,122)	9
Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative	5,060	2,589	2,441	(148)	10
Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities	3,537	3,537	3,537	–	
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes	12,639	12,200	11,655	(545)	
Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency	10,087	10,087	10,087	–	
Municipal and Northern Relations	6,562	7,176	6,258	(918)	11
Gas Tax Program	58,815	56,290	55,772	(518)	
Regional Planning Authorities	67	250	976	726	12
Saskatchewan Municipal Board (GR06)	**1,593**	**1,753**	**1,660**	**(93)**	
Public Safety (GR11)	**57,054**	**10,159**	**119,213**	**109,054**	
Emergency Management and Fire Safety	7,298	3,947	6,248	2,301	13
Building Standards and Licensing	1,292	1,355	1,171	(184)	14
Provincial Disaster Assistance Program	46,816	2,697	110,442	107,745	15
Public Safety Telecommunications	1,648	2,160	1,352	(808)	16

Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (GR13)	**(3)**	–	–	–	
Initial Appropriation and Actual Expenditures	**526,415**	**466,235**	**571,359**	**105,124**	
Supplementary Funding		118,779		(118,779)	
Total Appropriation	**526,415**	**585,014**	**571,359**	**(13,655)**	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(1,878)	(2,160)	(1,574)	586	17
Capital Asset Amortization	2,405	2,583	2,512	(71)	
Total Expense	**526,942**	**585,437**	**572,297**	**(13,140)**	

Explanations of Major Variances:

1. Expenditure restraint, vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditures.
2. Expenditure restraint, vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditures.
3. Expenditure restraint, vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditures.
4. Tax loss compensation requirements less than budgeted due to the level of reserve land creation activity.
5. Fewer applications and payments than anticipated.
6. Profits reported by Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation lower than anticipated.
7. Profits reported by Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority higher than anticipated.
8. Program funding commitments completed in 2013-14; no additional funding commitments made in 2014-15.
9. Under expenditure due to project delays.
10. Lower than anticipated interest rates being estimated on pending loans, municipalities not obtaining borrowing as early as anticipated and municipalities paying off loans earlier than required.
11. Expenditure restraint, vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditures.
12. Independent inspection and inquiry into the RM of Sherwood.
13. Costs associated with unanticipated emergency events.
14. Expenditure restraint, vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditures.
15. Costs to provide disaster assistance to claimants significantly higher than anticipated.
16. Reduced capital spending due to lower than anticipated project costs.
17. Reduced capital spending due to lower than anticipated project costs.

Summary of Revenues

The ministry's major revenue relates to agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the ministry's 2014-15 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than $100,000.

in thousands of dollars **Revenue Category**	**2014-15 Budget**	**2014-15 Actual**	**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Notes**
Other Enterprise and Funds	**250**	**333**	**83**	
Sask911	250	333	83	
Other Licences and Permits	**1,188**	**1,126**	**(62)**	
Subdivision Fees	800	720	(80)	
Licensing Fees	388	406	18	
Sales, Services and Service Fees	**60**	**69**	**9**	
Debenture Authorization	35	28	(7)	
Miscellaneous Services	4	3	(1)	
Other Service Fees	21	38	17	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	**4,005**	**15,229**	**11,224**	
Refunds – Previous Year's Expenditures	4,005	15,143	11,138	1
Casual Revenue	–	85	85	
Other	–	1	1	
Other Federal/Provincial Agreements	**64,790**	**161,868**	**97,078**	
Gas Tax Program	56,290	56,290	–	
Building Canada Fund – Communities Component	8,500	5,617	(2,883)	2
Joint Emergency Preparedness Program	–	220	220	3
Disaster Financial Assistance	–	99,523	99,523	4
Employability Assistance	–	218	218	5
Total Revenue	**70,293**	**178,625**	**108,332**	

Explanations of Major Variances:

1. Actual Provincial Disaster Assistance Program claim settlements lower than the estimated accounts payable.
2. Lower than anticipated revenue due to under project expenditure as a result of project delays.
3. Revenue recognized as a result of prior years' funding from Public Safety Canada.
4. Revenue recognized as a result of flooding events that occurred in 2013 and 2014.
5. Revenue recognized as a result of the Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities.

Financial Accountability Statement

Government Relations is responsible for ensuring:

- public accountability for government finances entrusted to the ministry;
- fiscally responsible management of its resources and financial affairs;
- compliance with existing legislation and regulations;
- systems and controls are in place to safeguard public assets; and
- appropriate results are reported to the public and the legislature.

There are a number of external controls in place to monitor these responsibilities. They include:

Audited Results – The Provincial Auditor's Office has legislative responsibility to audit the ministry. Audit conclusions are published in a report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. If a deficiency is reported by the Provincial Auditor, the ministry may be called to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature.

Accountable to Legislature – The ministry's annual budget is detailed in the Saskatchewan Provincial Budget Estimates. The ministry is called to appear before a Legislative Committee to defend the ministry's budget estimates.

Public Reporting – Expense and revenue details as they pertain to the ministry are published in the ministry's Annual Report, and Public Accounts Volumes 1 and 2.

For More Information

Additional information about the Ministry of Government Relations is available at:
http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/government-relations.

The website includes general and detailed information about the ministry, its key programs, special studies, and legislation for which the ministry is responsible.

For more information about Government Relations, or to provide feedback about our 2014-15 Annual Report or performance results, please contact us at:

Phone: (306) 798-6093 Email: communicationsgr@gov.sk.ca

Mailing address: Ministry of Government Relations, 1855 Victoria Avenue Regina, SK S4P 3T2

Appendix A: Acts and Regulations

The Minister of Government Relations is assigned the administration of the following Acts and Regulations, except insofar as another minister is assigned the administration of the Act:

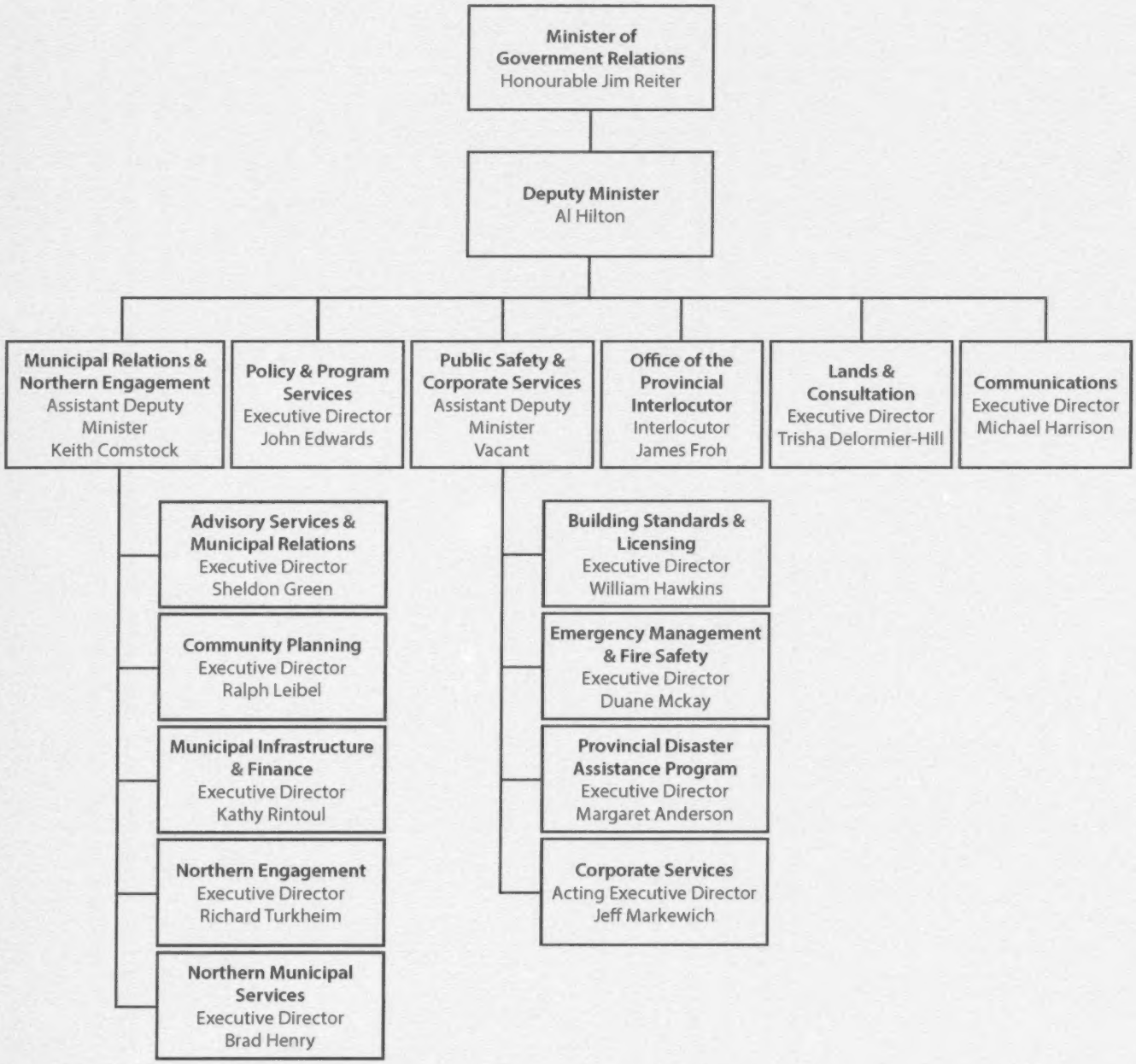
- *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*
  - *The Amusement Ride Safety Regulations*
- *The Assessment Appraisers Act*
  - *The Assessment Appraisers Regulations*
- *The Assessment Management Agency Act*
  - *The Assessment Management Agency Regulations*
- *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999*
  - *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Regulations*
- *The Border Areas Act*
- *The Cities Act*
  - *The Cities Regulations*
- *The City of Lloydminster Act*
- *The Community Planning Profession Act, 2013*
- *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act*
- *The Department of Rural Development Act*
  - jointly assigned to the Minister of Government Relations and the Minister of the Economy except with respect to clauses 7(a), (d) and (e) and 9(e) which are jointly assigned to the Minister of Government Relations, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of the Economy
- *The Department of Urban Affairs Act*
  - except clause 7(b) which is assigned to the Minister of Social Services
- *The Electrical Licensing Act*
  - *The Electrical Contractor's Guarantee Bond Regulations, 1988*
  - *The Electrical Licensing Fees Regulation*
  - *The Electrical Licensing Exemption Regulations*
- *The Emergency 911 System Act*
  - *The Public Safety Answering Point Regulations, 2011*
- *The Emergency Planning Act*
  - *The Provincial Disaster Assistance Program Regulations, 2011*
- *The Emergency Services Telecommunication Program Regulations (under The Government Organization Act)*
- *The Fire Prevention Act, 1992*
  - *The Saskatchewan Fire Code Regulations*
  - *The Fire Insurance Fees and Reporting Regulations*
- *The Flin-Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952*

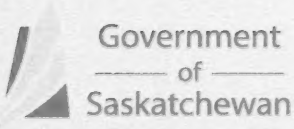
- *The Gas Licensing Act*
  - *The Gas Licensing Regulations*
- *The Local Government Election Act*
  - *The Local Government Election Regulations, 2006*
- *The Local Improvements Act, 1993*
  - *The Local Improvements Forms Regulations, 1991*
- *The Municipal Board Act*
  - *The Saskatchewan Municipal Board Fees Regulations*
  - *The Saskatchewan Municipal Board Member Qualification Regulations, 2003*
- *The Municipal Expropriation Act*
- *The Municipal Grants Act*
  - *The Municipal Grants Regulations*
- *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act*
  - *General Regulations under The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act*
- *The Municipalities Act*
  - *The Municipalities Regulations*
- *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*
  - *The Northern Municipalities Regulations*
- *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*
  - *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Regulations, 2003*
- *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*
  - *The Subdivision Regulations, 2014*
  - *The Dedicated Lands Regulations, 2009*
  - *The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations*
- *The Rural Development Act*
  - jointly assigned to the Minister of Government Relations and the Minister of the Economy
- *The Rural Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Tax Enforcement Act*
  - *The Tax Enforcement Regulations*
- *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*
- *The Time Act*
  - *The Time Act General Regulations*
- *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*
  - *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Regulations*
  - *The Building and Accessibility Standards Administration Regulations*
- *The Urban Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984*

Acts and Regulations which are the responsibility of the Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs:

- *The Indian and Native Affairs Act*
  - except clause 7(b) which is jointly assigned to the Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and the Minister of the Economy.
- *The Métis Act*
- *The Northern Affairs Act*
  - jointly assigned to the Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and the Minister of the Economy.
- *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*, but only with respect to:
  - Part III.01; and
  - the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed on the minister and the Minister of Finance pursuant to Part III.1
- *The Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (Treaty Land Entitlement) Act*
- *The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act*

Appendix B: Organizational Chart as of March 31, 2015




Government
of
Saskatchewan